

Joint Meeting of the New Shoreham Town Council,  
New Shoreham Water Commission and New Shoreham Sewer Commission

October 19, 2009

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Present were: Town Council members: First Warden Kimberley H. Gaffett, Richard P. Martin, Peter B. Baute, Kenneth C. LaCoste and Deputy Town Clerk Millicent McGinnes. Absent was Raymond Torrey.

Water Commission members: Chair Sandra Finizia, Wayne Battey, Robby Brown, Jason Howarth, Peter McNerney, alternate Frank Leslie, and District Clerk Janet Ziegler. Absent was alternate Rally Migliaccio.

Sewer Commission members: Chair Jason Howarth, Robby Brown, Tom Doyle, Sandra Finizia, Peter McNerney, alternate Frank Leslie and District Clerk Janet Ziegler. Absent was alternate Rally Migliaccio.

Also present were Public Works Director Nancy Dodge, Finance Director Amy Lewis, Superintendents Dave Simmons and Ray Boucher, and Lawyer Elliot Taubman.

The meeting was called to order by First Warden Gaffett at 4:32 p.m. She suggested that since the Town's repeal of its Ordinance requiring an 'annual priorities and capital budget meeting', the Town Council would henceforth leave those technical decisions up to the individual commissions.

1. Discuss and act on proposed changes in the Management Agreement between the Town of New Shoreham, the Water Commission and the Sewer Commission.

K. Gaffett inquired whether either Commission envisioned any major changes in the upcoming year. There being no response, Gaffett inquired about the 'sole responsibility of the sewer commission' over all employees (section 4) and why the water commission did not directly hire the water superintendent since the agreement states that the "Superintendent of Water shall report directly to the Water Commissioners" (section 8). The two sections have incongruities and are difficult to understand in context to each other; clarity is needed. Additionally, although sewer's enabling legislation is cited in the agreement, there is no mention of water's.

E. Taubman noted that historically, the Sewer Commission agreed to cross-train its sewer employees and provide labor for the operation of the Block Island Water company.

**MOTION:** by Councilor K. Gaffett to develop language to have section 4 and 8 made compatible. The motion was seconded, a quorum was present and the vote was:

AYE: 4 (Gaffett, Baute, Lacoste, Martin)      NAY: Ø.      ABSTAIN: Ø.

The motion carried.

**MOTION:** by Sewer Chair J. Howarth to integrate section 4 and 8 to clearly reflect each board's authority. The motion was seconded, a quorum was present and the vote was:

AYE: 5 (Brown, Doyle, Leslie, Howarth, McNerney)      NAY: Ø      Abstain: Ø

The motion carried.

**MOTION:** by Water Chair S. Finizia to look at input for paragraph 4 & 8 of management agreement. The motion was seconded, a quorum was present and the vote was:

AYE: 5 (Battey, Brown, Leslie, Howarth, McNerney)      NAY: Ø      Abstain: Ø

The motion carried.

K. Gaffett said that the Council would prefer to review the changes after they are made before voting to accept them. E. Taubman will propose the changes.

2. Discussion of major policy changes of the Water Commission.

The Water Commission had no major policy changes (rate design, allocation etc). Setting the price of allocation (Contribution in Aid of Construction) and available capacity would be discussed in the water and sewer operations report at another meeting.

3. Discussion of major policy changes of the Sewer Commission

The Sewer Commission contemplated no major policy changes.

4. Issues of mutual concern.

E. Taubman stated that the town's ordinances states that water and sewer allocation must be obtained before a building permit can be obtained, however some new buildings have been completed without allocations. N. Dodge will check into the communication process. One property, without allocation, was developed under a legal agreement with the town, that route might have bypassed the sewer and water regulations.

**MOTION:** by K. Gaffett to adjourn the meeting was seconded and unanimously approved by all town councilors.

**MOTION:** by J. Howarth to adjourn the meeting was seconded and unanimously approved by all sewer commissioners.

**MOTION:** S. Finizia to adjourn the meeting was seconded and unanimously approved by all water commissioners.

The meeting adjourned at 5:00pm

Respectfully submitted,

Janet Ziegler

Approved: October 19, 2009